

REMARKS

Independent claim 1 is amended to include the features of dependent claim 2. Similarly, independent claim 16 is amended to include the features of dependent claim 17. As a result of the amendment to claims 1 and 16, claims 2 and 17 are canceled.

Claims 1 and 16 are amended by replacing the square symbol with the symbol μ . It is pointed out that the original claims included the symbol μ as the characterization of permeability. It appears that the Preliminary Amendment incorrectly reproduced that symbol.

The reference numbers have been removed from the claim set.

No new matter is introduced by this amendment, and entry thereof is requested. Upon entry, claims 1, 2-16, and 18-38 are active in this application.

The outstanding Office Action states that claims 2-15 and 17-38 are objected to but "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." As a result of the amendment to independent claims 1 and 16, it is submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance.

The outstanding Office Action includes a rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP 08 167787 to Masami et al. In addition, the Office Action includes a rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Masami et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,890,083 to Trenkler et al. In view of the amendments to claims 1 and 16, it is submitted that these rejections have been rendered moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

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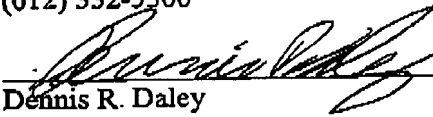
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It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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